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Apple Hardware: Radio and Television Interference

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TOPIC -----

This article contains information on troubleshooting radio and television interference.

DISCUSSION -----

Apple equipment generates and uses radio-frequency energy. If the equipment is not installed and used properly, that is, in strict accordance with FCC instructions, it may cause interference with radio and television reception.

All Apple equipment has been tested and complies with the limits for a Class B computing device in accordance with the specifications in Subpart J, Part 15 of FCC rules. These rules are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference in a residential installation. However, there is no guarantee that the interference will not occur in a particular installation, especially if you use a 'rabbit-ear' television antenna.

It's not difficult to determine whether your computer is causing interference: simply turn it off. If the interference stops, your equipment is indeed the culprit. To further isolate the problem, disconnect all peripheral devices and their input/output cables one at a time. (Connect or disconnect peripheral devices only after powering them, and the system, off.) If any disconnection causes the interference to stop, the problem is either the peripheral device or its I/O cable. Peripherals usually require shielded I/O cables; for Apple peripheral devices, you can obtain the proper shielded cable from your dealer. For non-Apple peripheral devices, contact the manufacturer or dealer for assistance.

If your computer causes interference to radio or television reception, you can try to correct the interference by using one or more of the following measures:

- Realign the TV or radio antenna until the interference stops.
- Move the computer farther from the TV, radio, or antenna.
- Plug the computer into an outlet that is on a different electrical circuit than the TV or radio.
- Consider installing a rooftop television antenna with coaxial cable lead-in between the antenna and TV.

If necessary, you should consult your dealer or an experienced radio or television technician for additional suggestions. You may find helpful the following booklet, prepared by the Federal Communications Commission,

"How to Identify and Resolve Radio-TV Interference Problems"
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20402

(Stock number 004-000-00345-4.)

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